

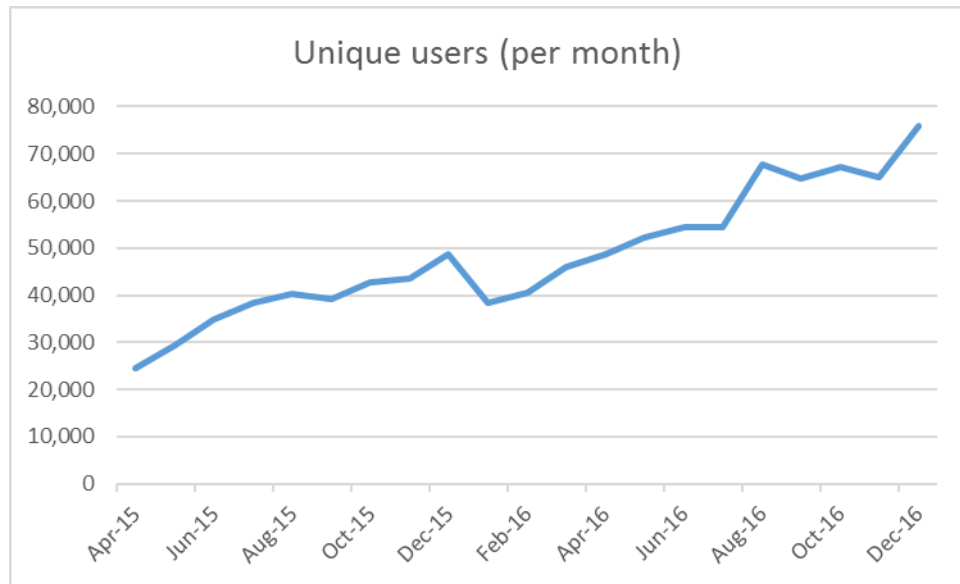


Subject:	Belfast Wi-Fi Update
Date:	17 February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance & Resources
Contact Officer:	Paul Gribben, Head of Digital Services

Is this report restricted?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

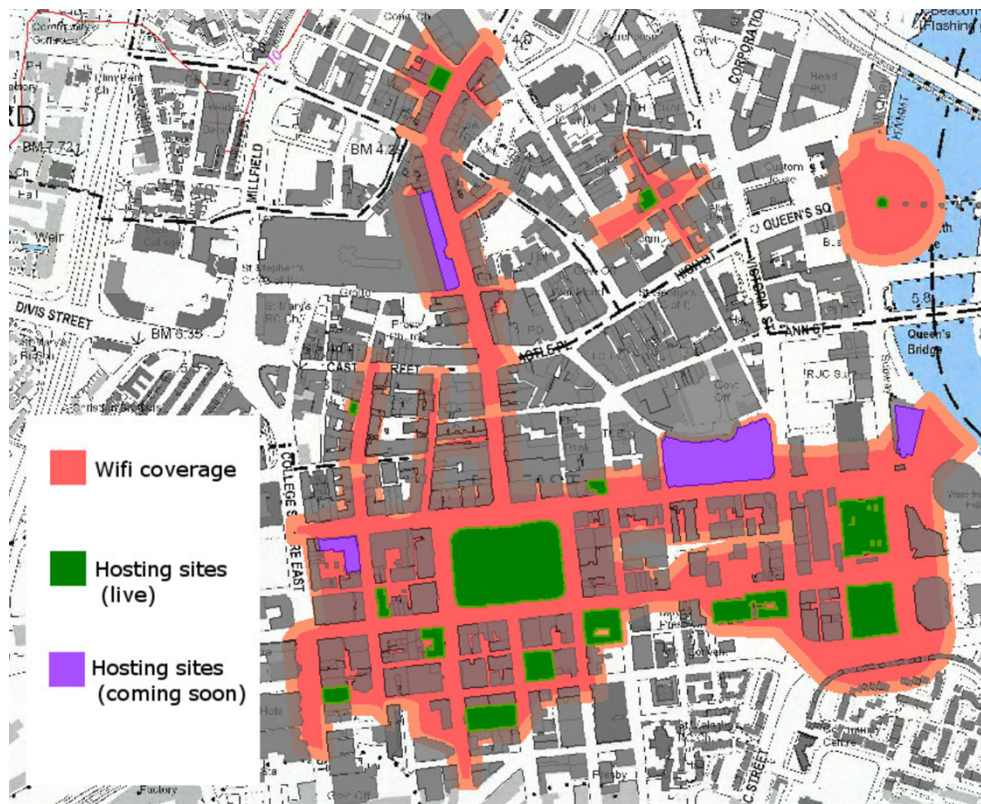
1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report provides an overview of Phase 1 of the Belfast Wi-Fi project (Public Buildings) and an update on the implementation of Phase 2 (City Centre Wi-Fi).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the contents of the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Belfast Wi-Fi – Phase 1</u> Phase 1 of the Belfast Wi-Fi project delivered the installation of free Wi-Fi in 107 public buildings across the city. (See Appendix 1 for full locations list). Belfast Wi-Fi is proving to be extremely popular with the public, particularly in the City Hall and St George’s Market, and figures show a 5% growth in users accessing the service month on month. In 2016 675,046 unique users accessed the Belfast Wi-Fi service in public buildings, transferring 230 Terabytes of data, and in December 2016 we saw the service hit a landmark one million users . The chart below shows the steady growth of the Belfast Wi-Fi service since its roll out in

April 2015.



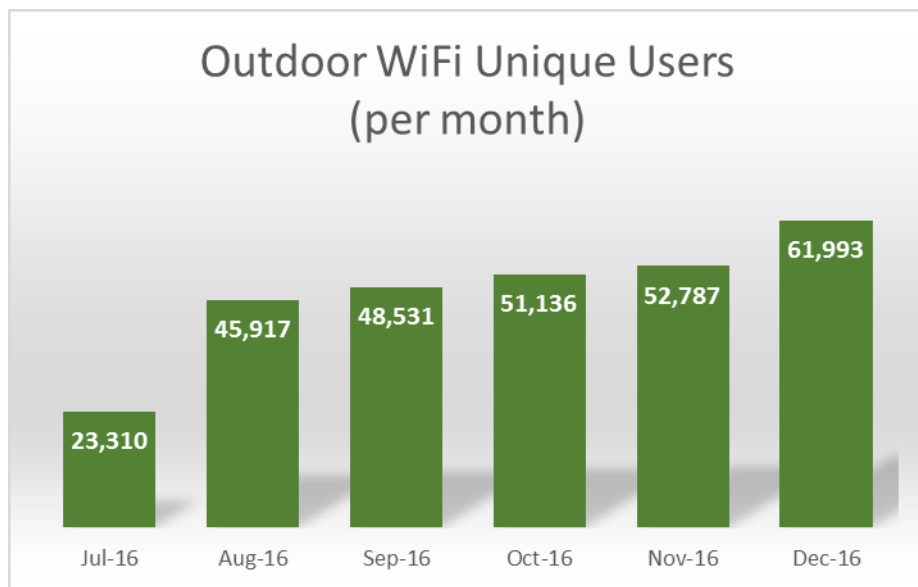
3.2 **Phase 2 – Outdoor Wi-Fi**

Phase 2 aims to build on the success of our free Public Buildings Wi-Fi, and extends the Belfast Wi-Fi service outdoors into the City Centre through the installation of a further 74 Wireless Access Points. The map below shows the areas that will be covered within the city centre when installation of the 4 remaining access points is completed.



The service is already proving to be really popular and without any publicity has attracted an

impressive number of users. On average over **5000** people are using outdoor Wi-Fi on a daily basis.



A public launch of the Belfast Wi-Fi service will take place following the installation of the remaining access points.

3.2 Solar Powered Charging Stations

In October 2016 the Strategic Policy and Resources committee recommended a pilot of 2 Solar Powered charging stations in the grounds of the City Hall. Installation of the charging points took place in January following the removal of the Christmas market. Based on feedback received on the Council's Facebook page it looks likely that the charging units will prove to be popular with the public.

3.3 Financial & Resource Implications

The contract for Belfast Wi-Fi, both indoor and outdoor, will run to the end of March 2019 and can be extended for a further 6 years if required. All of the on-going resources required to ensure support and maintenance of the Belfast Wi-Fi service are funded through existing revenue budgets.

3.4 The contract is also set up to allow further investment which could see the service extended into additional areas.

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications

	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Belfast WiFi Locations